

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

January 11, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Dave Rollo, Andy Davis, Bill Brown, Cynthia Schultz, Janice Lilly, Amy Countryman, David Parkhurst, Heidi Russell Wagner, Amanda Figolah. Michael Beszkiewicz and George Huntington joined late.

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Ted Mendoza, Melissa Clark, Toby Strout

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Several members of the public were present. Jill Minor noted that Matt Pierce recently passed a tax credit for solar installations (IC 6-1-12-26), but that a loophole is being used in Monroe County and residents are not being allowed to apply. Heidi is following up with the county, and Dave R. will ask the legislative attorney at the City to follow up.

Announcements:

Dave R. shared a draft press release related to the Redefining Prosperity report, highlighting a recent German military report that mentioned Bloomington's efforts.

Dave R. also mentioned a recent proposal for a cooperative housing development that is being explored with Planning. The new development would incorporate many aspects of sustainability. He encouraged the commission to support it—we will talk in more detail next month. Dave P. sent a draft of a possible letter of support to Jacqui, and she will share with others on the commission. Heidi said she is willing to help provide input if desired. Jacqui noted that the petition will not be on the Plan Commission agenda until February or March.

Heidi: Monroe County Comprehensive Plan will be heard next Tuesday, 6pm. She encouraged everyone to attend to show support for the county's efforts to incorporate sustainability concerns into the plan. Final vote will probably not be until January.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the November 2010 meeting were approved.

Reports from Bill Brown's class (Sustainable Development)

Bill split his class into groups corresponding to each of BCOS's focus areas (Water, Energy, Food). Two members of the energy group were present and shared their proposal to include targets as part of our indicators report (eg a 1% reduction in energy usage, 20% renewables, etc.). The group also recommended a community energy challenge, similar to the effort in Bellingham WA. Could begin thinking about a city/county/campus energy challenge.

Michael noted that SIREN is just finishing its first year-long energy challenge. They are now evaluating the effort, and we may find their experience instructive if we develop a larger community effort.

Bill summarized the efforts of the other groups. The water group developed a proposed reformatted water bill, and educational literature for residents. Jacqui noted that the proposed bill format has been shared with those working on the reformatted bill.

The final group developed a starter garden program.

Cynthia shared hard copies of the handouts prepared by the different groups. Jacqui will also make the powerpoints available to BCOS.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui gave an update on the Beat the Meter Blitz—57 audits completed and a good reaction so far, but a need to build this into a bigger strategy to address residential home efficiency on a large scale.

Update on STAR report

Cynthia noted that we did not do a full-scale revision of the report. If there is no further comment, Cynthia will present this at City Council tomorrow. Jacqui will get the report online soon.

Deer resolution:

Dave P. proposed reversing “consumption” and “destruction” toward the end of the resolution draft that was shared, and that the resolution be adopted with that change.

A motion to adopt the resolution was made and seconded. The motion was approved with one abstention.

Committee Reports:

Nominating committee: Cynthia, George, and Toby developed a proposed slate of new officers for 2011. Maggie Sullivan is nominated as Chair, Andy Davis as Vice Chair. The slate was approved unanimously.

Food: Food committee held a kick-off meeting about starting a food security council. The next meeting will be held on January 25, again at the Monroe County Public Library. The smaller organizing committee will be meeting before the January 25 meeting to develop an agenda.

Water: no report

Energy: the committee met and discussed some possible initiatives. Will continue exploring in the coming weeks.

Communications: The Green Network News website (www.gnnbloomington.com) is up and running and they are looking for input and commentary. It has not been formally rolled out

yet, but they are asking BCOS members to contribute events and other information so the site will be populated when it is announced.

Jacqui mentioned again the idea of a joint campaign, with a goal stated by each subcommittee. Cynthia suggested that this would be a good way to start off the new year.

New Business

The commission discussed the co-op proposal discussed above—this will be brought to the Plan Commission in February or March. Peter Bane discussed the proposal briefly—they are proposing a unique layout to accommodate environmental constraints on the site, to increase social connections between neighbors, conserve resources, etc. The site is located across from JB's Salvage NW of town. The proposal also has positive features in terms of bike-friendliness and permaculture.

Because this proposal embodies so many of the city's stated priorities, Peter encouraged BCOS to make a strong statement in support.

Jacqui will explore bringing representatives from the cooperative and City Planning to the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.